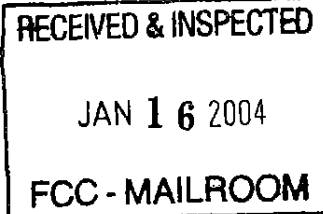


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January 14, 2004

Marlene H Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: **Notice of Ex Parte Communication**

CC Docket Nos 96-262 and 01-92

Dear Ms Dortch,

On January 13, 2004, Steve Gray and Bill Courter held a conversation by telephone with Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein and Lisa Zaina regarding issues in the above-referenced docket concerning the possible impact on the facilities-based CLEC industry of various outcomes of the Commission's consideration of the Petitions for Reconsideration of the CLEC Access Charge Order

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William H. Courter".

William H. Courter
Assistant General Counsel
McLeodUSA Telecommunications Services, Inc.

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